

Lory Owners Dish About Their Birds

Bird owners share about their lorries.

From BIRD TALK editors

Courtesy Bonnie Dugan, Ohio
Summer, a red lory.

Five lory owners shared their insight of life with these energetic, colorful little parrots: Alicia Propst of North Carolina, owner of rainbow lorikeet, Skittles; Amy Joyce of Massachusetts, owner of rainbow lorikeet, Spectra (Specci); Bonnie Dugan of Ohio, owner of red lory, Summer; Carol Hodges of Ontario, Canada, owner of rainbow lorikeets, Billy and Robby; Jean Gauthier of Washington, owner of Goldie's lorikeets, Mitch and Mickey.

How are lorries different from other birds your own?

Propst: Skittles is the best talker I have. I have Amazons, lovebirds, conures and parrotlets. She hops around a lot and spends a lot of time rolling around on her back when she plays with her toys.

Joyce: Spectra (Specci) is not too much different except that I feel he is a bit more intelligent than most of my other birds. He is a very loving and crazy bird, too.

Dugan: Summer loves to be cuddled. She is very affectionate, but can be quite aggressive with some of my other family and flock members.

Hodges: Lorries tend to be like little clowns. Billy loves to play, and by play I mean he puts all his effort into it. He has so much energy and he swings and jumps around so fast, it's really hard to even get a good picture of him. Both Robby and Billy really seem to like playing with small toys by lying on their backs and holding the toy with their feet. They are both good talkers and, to me, they provide the most entertainment anyone could possibly want. I never tire of watching them and playing with them.

Gauthier: I have owned a pair of Goldie's Lorikeets, which are very small lorries. How are they different? When I first got them as babies, they impressed me by being so unafraid of meeting a complete stranger. They did not hide in the back of the crate when I picked them up at the airport but hung by the front grate with their whole body, eager to meet anyone. They used their tongues to touch my hand through the bars, almost like an interested ant "tasting" with its antennae; very unlike any other type of parrot I'd known.

What are your lory's favorite treats?

Gauthier: My lorries like certain dark fleshed fruits best; persimmons, cactus pears, mangos and pluots. They also like corn on the cob and snap peas, and they enjoy drinking fruit juices from a cup.

Joyce: My lory enjoys fresh fruit and veggies

Dugan: Summer enjoys Nutriberries and birdie bread that I bake for her.

Propst: I will give Skittles a miniature marshmallow once in a while. It's not the most nutritious thing she could eat, but she loves them. She also likes peanut butter on occasion, mixed in with some yogurt.

Hodges: Both of my lorikeets love those natural frozen pops. They go nuts over the mango ones.

What are your lory's favorite toys?

Dugan: She enjoys swinging on her boing and snuggling up to her cuddle toy. She sleeps on top of her tent, as opposed to inside.

Gauthier: My lorries like their toy box. It has very small plastic foot toys that they carry around and drop in different spots in the cage. They also like the plastic yellow coils that I string across the cage for them to move around on. They enjoy hanging out in a Jolly Ball, and like bells and chains with beads on them. They do not chew very hard, but will nibble and

wear things down if they are wicker or soft wood. Carrying and dropping foot toys, their tongues exploring interesting surfaces and chasing each other across a bouncy jungle gym is more their style of play.

Joyce: Specci enjoys anything hanging with a bell, me and Carino, his best bud (she is a blue-fronted Amazon parrot)

Hodges: Billy's favorite toy is his acrylic one that has balls in a tube and heart shapes on each end hanging with a chain. He loves for anyone to hold a hand in his cage so he can hold onto your finger and hang upside down, rubbing his face all over it. Robby's favorite toy is also an acrylic toy called "charms." He sits on his double trouble rope and talks, laughs and plays with this toy for a very long time.

Propst: Her favorite toys are small cat balls with holes in them and tiny stuffed animals. Skittles will make a toy out of anything that is within her reach.

What are your lory's favorite activities/games?

Joyce: He likes to play dead bird, and he hops around singing "Dee, dee, dee." He has a great vocabulary. He can say much more than most of my birds.

Propst: Skittles will fetch one of her balls. I toss it on the bed, and she gets it and hops back to me with it. She likes to go up and down her ladder by weaving in and out of the rungs.

Hodges: Billy loves to lie on the bottom of his cage and grab his small basket and put it over his head, lying on his back and saying, "Peek-a-boo." It's so cute. Robby's favorite game is called "Get It." He throws his plastic golf ball to me and, of course, I always miss. And then he yells, "Get it!"

Gauthier: My lorikeets like to fly and chase. They like to shower and to go somewhere new, like into a big bird's cage to check out the toys and food bowls or outside to play in an aviary. They get a great kick out of evading me when I need to bring them back inside, and they also like to tease my other birds. I cannot trust them around my larger birds...small lories are difficult to keep safe unless they have their own dedicated room. Goldie's certainly don't think they are small, and will challenge much larger birds. They can also injure birds that are even twice their size ... they need to stay with similarly sized lories. They are so astute and intelligent, they can pick out a weaker bird in a mixed flock and will attack that bird relentlessly when ever they are out. They love to hang out on top of curtains, preening the fabric together.

Dugan: Chasing my teenage children is a fun sport for her, as well as mine because it is hilarious to watch.